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From Nicosia

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Andreas Araouzos, Acting Foreign Minister

Ambassador Belcher

PLACE: Mr. Araouzos' Office

DATE: December 28, 1964

SUDJECT: Solution of ATL Problem

The Acting Foreign Minister called me to his office today to give me an oral confirmation of the arrangements finally decided upon by the Government of Cyprus for the replacement of the American Temporary Licenses.

Evidently my conversations with the President of the House and the Minister of Finance assisted in changing the rather severe position initially taken by the government. It has now been agreed that individuals owning cars now bearing ATL plates who are not employed in the Chancery, USIS or covered by the AID agreement, will as from January 1, 1965 pay full registration and circulation fees. There will be no retroactive charges whatsoever, nor will any duty be assessed since all such vehicles are covered by free entry certificates. Any individuals who prefer not to register or license their cars are free to remove them from the roads to storage or ship them off the Island. It was agreed that no American Temporary License plates would be in circulation after Thursday, December 31.

The Acting Minister said that he would confirm this in writing for the record and later phoned to verify the fact that the question of customs duty payable on cars imported in the future by individuals covered by this new arrangement would be included in the overall negotiation of a new agreement and therefore there would be no mention of this aspect of the problem in his letter.

AMB: TGBelcher: jsw

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